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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #06008-84
22 October 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting

1. Representatives of the Intelligence Community met on 17 October 1984 to consider the attached subjects.

2. Next month's Warning and Forecast Meeting will be 14 November 1984 at 1400 hours in room 7E62 CIA Headquarters. Please phone attendance intentions to [REDACTED] and have your clearances verified to us by your Security Office by COB 9 November 1984.

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[REDACTED]
Assistant National Intelligence Officer
for East Asia

Attachment:
East Asia Warning and Forecast Report

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17 October East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting

[] Assistant NIO for East Asia, opened the meeting and introduced [] who presented a brief overview of conditions in the Philippines. On the negative side he reported that:

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- Filipinos are universally opposed to the continuation of Marcos' rule;
- The opposition is pressing Marcos vigorously;
- The Agrava Board report will add to the pressure;
- The armed forces are not performing well against the insurgency, which is growing, albeit slowly, in most areas.

On a more positive note he reported that:

- The May elections boded well for further movement toward democratic rule;
- Marcos appears to realize the limits of his power and is behaving somewhat less autocratically;
- Because of its unique nature, Filipino society appears to be muddling through; and,
- Any successor government will have many of the characteristics of Marcos' regime.

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In response to questions, [] reported no known direct Soviet support for the insurgency and that the recent retirement of generals was a positive sign.

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Thailand: Internal Political Developments

Prem's health problems have led to wild speculation, which may be a political liability

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Clearly, General Athit will try to strengthen his own political standing while Prem is in a weakened condition; however, Athit must deal with the military's Young Turks (Class 7) and Class 5 rivalry. Athit has been erratic in his recent behavior and public statements; crossed signals he gave concerning the Lao-Thai border dispute have not helped. The press has been critical of Athit, which does not bode well for him to act as a caretaker during Prem's malaise or for Athit's efforts to secure a constitutional reform to permit him to remain on active duty and secure his cabinet position. The queen's visits to Prem suggest that Athit's slide from royal favor continues.

Predictions - in descending order of likelihood:

- Prem recovers and remains in power; action on constitutional changes postponed; possible cabinet reshuffle.
- Constitution amended, Athit enters cabinet; and eventually replaces Prem.
- Prem steps down because of health problems, Athit or supporter becomes caretaker--eventually succeeds Prem as prime minister.

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China: The Buildup on the Sino-Viet Border

Elements of eight Chinese divisions are now in the vicinity of Kunming. [redacted]

[redacted] Beijing's purpose behind this buildup appears threefold:

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- To insure they can control the pace and scope of the fighting;
- To prevent recurrence of the counterattacks that occurred in June and July;
- To deter attacks that could embarrass China during the 1 October national day celebration.

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Prediction

In the long term, Beijing probably plans to step up pressure on Vietnam during the next dry season to help relieve pressure on the Kampuchean insurgent camps. We doubt that China plans further incursions into Vietnam.

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